



FACT SHEET



BMDO FACT SHEET PO-99-03

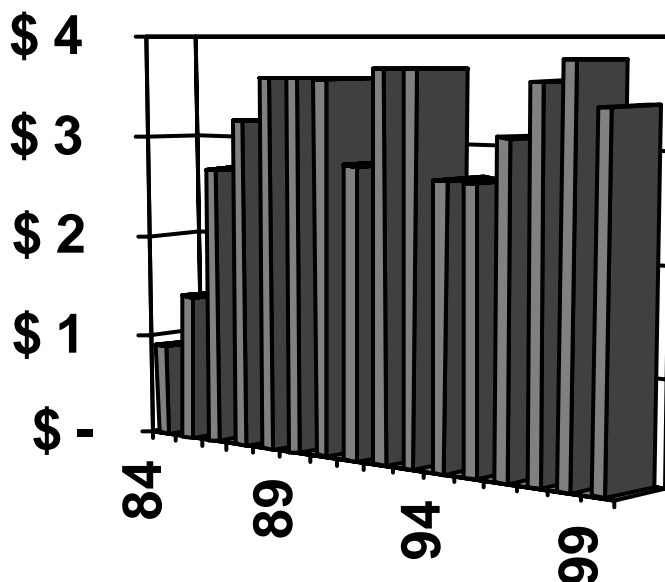
MISSILE DEFENSE INVESTMENT

INTRODUCTION

Money spent on U.S. missile defense programs over the years has been a worthwhile, sound, and essential investment for the future security of America. The funds used for missile defense have provided the indispensable technology base necessary for deploying several systems designed to protect U.S. forces and allies abroad, while the Department of Defense (DoD) also develops a system that will protect U.S. national territory.

Regardless of this, a question still invariably resurfaces in the United States: "What have the American people received for the estimated \$56 billion spent by the Defense Department on ballistic missile defense (BMD) plans since the program began in 1983?"

BMDO INVESTMENT FROM 1984-1996
(Dollars in billions)



STRATEGIC DEFENSE INITIATIVE ORGANIZATION

Americans have benefited from the DoD BMD programs since President Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative consolidated all Service missile defense programs under one title: the Strategic Defense Initiative Organization (SDIO). Aside from coordinating the Service missile programs, the new organization also brought together the national laboratories and commercial firms working on BMD technology. This saved time and money and also ensured close coordination among all involved.

While SDIO's goal was to deploy eventual missile defenses that could defend America as well as deter the Soviet Union, SDIO first had to develop the technology necessary to produce both ground and space-based sensors and interceptors.

BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE ORGANIZATION

Although there are challenges ahead, a large portion of the development effort has been completed. With the end of the Cold War, the threat caused by the proliferation of ballistic missiles in states hostile to the United States has replaced the Soviet Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) threat. This does not mean that the United States will no longer face the threat of a ballistic missile attack. Rather, the latest classified National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) clearly states that it is not whether a threat to the United States will exist, but when it will exist.

The Clinton Administration recognized this change in the global environment, renamed SDIO as the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization (BMDO), and re-orientated the missile defense organization to meet today's national security threats. The Department is pursuing a "family of systems" approach to the theater missile challenge. This family of systems will ensure a defense in depth, using multi-tiered defenses against both long and short-range theater class missiles. In general, these programs include the PATRIOT Advanced Capability-3 (PAC-3), Navy Area Defense, Medium Extended Air Defense System (MEADS), Theater High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD), and Navy Theater-Wide Defense systems. The "family of systems" will protect U.S. forces overseas and American friends and allies who count on our support. The DoD also is funding a National Missile Defense (NMD) program, with an optional deployment of the strategic system in FY05.

Americans remember the use of the PATRIOT missile against Iraqi SCUDS during Desert Storm. A significant improvement to the PATRIOT system is underway; these improvements make up the new PAC-3 system, just one of the many important missile defense systems being developed. New radars and sensors that are indispensable to deployed future national and theater missile defenses are also currently under development.

APPLICATIONS

Aside from the military use of the ballistic missile defense programs, investments in BMDO has provided technology with commercial applications. Examples of these include: advances in computers and robotics, medicine, agriculture, weather science, natural resource exploration, and environmental protection, just to name a few. The success of BMDO with dual-use technology application has been tremendous.

CONCLUSION

The estimated \$56 billion dollars spent on U.S. ballistic missile defense programs has been and continues to be a worthwhile, sound, and necessary investment for the future security of the United States. The funds used thus far have provided an indispensable technology base with dual-use applications. They also have given DoD the ability to further develop and field several systems. Though it is difficult to see the success of the missile defense programs without having the products readily in hand, the DoD has been investing wisely in the future security of the United States.

THE INVESTMENT IS MORE THAN MISSILE DEFENSE

BMDO-funded technology developed to protect the United States (from ballistic missile attacks) may likewise be used in other applications to protect families, homes, businesses and the environment.

Leading-edge technology in communications, information systems, sensors, materials and optics may help the law enforcement community do its job better and more safely.

Many U.S. companies are now finding that some of BMDO's technology can help the Nation, as well as other industrialized and developing countries, to solve environmental problems.

While improving the Nation's defense, much of BMDO's technology also offers strategic benefits to the American manufacturing community, helping companies significantly improve industrial capability.

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